IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1-6 with the following claims, respectively.

Please cancel claims 7-27.

1. (thrice amended) A method for a single hardware platform to support multiple types of network service, comprising:

    detecting a request to establish a network connection that flows through the hardware platform;

    determining a type of network service used by the network connection;

    downloading in response to the determining, to the hardware platform, software that is specific to the type of network service; and

    executing the software to process traffic over the network connection, according to the type of network service.

2. (thrice amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising configuring a switch to direct the traffic, after being received from a physical line that ~~transported it,~~ to a processor that performs the executing.

3. (once amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the downloading further comprises loading the software into a memory that the processor has access to.

4. (twice amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the type of networking service is a voice transportation service.

5. (twice amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the type of networking service is Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) service.

6. (twice amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the type of networking service is Frame Relay.

Please add new claims 28 - 48.

28. (new) A method, comprising:

downloading a first software image to a card that can execute the first software image, the first software image being specific to a first type of networking service so that the card can provide the first type of networking service over a physical line that emanates from the card;

downloading a second software image to the card, the card also able to execute the second software image, the second software image being specific to a second type of networking service so that the card can provide the second type of networking service over a physical line that emanates from the card; and

downloading a third software image to the card, the card also able to execute the third software image, the third software image being specific to a third type of networking service so that the card can provide the third type of networking service over a physical line that emanates from the card.

29. (new) The method of claim 28 further comprising loading the first, second and third software images into memory space that is available on the card.

30. (new) The method of claim 29 further comprising executing the first, second and third software images so as to provide the first, second and third types of networking service.

31. (new) The method of claim 28 further comprising providing the first, second and third types of networking service over a physical line that emanates from the card and that transports framed traffic.

32. (new) The method of claim 31 wherein said physical line is a T1/E1 physical line.

33. (new) The method of claim 28 wherein the first type of networking service is voice transportation.

34. (new) The method of claim 31 wherein the second type of service is ATM service.

35. (new) The method of claim 33 wherein the third type of service is Frame Relay service.

36. (new) The method of claim 28 further comprising configuring a switch that is located on the card to route traffic between a line interface that is located on the

card and a processor that is located on the card and where the processor executes the second software routine.

37. (new) The method of claim 28 wherein the downloading of the first software image is in response to a connection of the first networking service type being attempted though the card.

38. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein the downloading of the second software image is in response to a connection of the second networking service type being attempted though the card.

39. (new) The method of claim 38 wherein the downloading of the third software image is in response to a connection of the third networking service type being attempted though the card.

40. (new) A card, comprising:

a) an interface to a physical line, the interface further comprising a line interface unit and a framer;

b) a processor that can execute any of a plurality of service specific software routines that are downloaded to the card in response to a determination that the card is to provide any of a corresponding plurality of different types of networking services;

c) a memory that is coupled to the processor and that stores any of the plurality of service specific software routines that the processor is expected to execute in response to the determination; and

c) a switch that receives ingress traffic from the interface and routes the traffic the processor.

41. (new) The card of claim 40 wherein one of the types of networking services further comprises voice transportation.

42. (new) The card of claim 41 further comprising a plurality of digital signal processors that help to provide the voice transportation service.

43. (new) The card of claim 40 wherein one of the types of networking services further comprises ATM.

44. (new) The card of claim 40 wherein one of the types of networking services further Frame Relay.

45. (new) A card, comprising:

a) first means for interfacing to a physical line;

b) second means for executing any of a plurality of service specific software routines that are downloaded to the card in response to a determination that the card is to provide any of a corresponding plurality of different types of networking services;

c) third means for storing any of the plurality of service specific software routines that the second means is expected to execute in response to the determination; and

c) fourth means that receives ingress traffic from the first means and routes the traffic to the second means.

46. (new) The card of claim 45 wherein one of the types of networking services further comprises voice transportation.

47. (new) The card of claim 45 wherein one of the types of networking services further comprises ATM.

48. (new) The card of claim 45 wherein one of the types of networking services further Frame Relay.